The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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How many unjust things are done from mere habit.—Terence.

WHOLE NO. 1015. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1930 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 20, NO. 28.

UNIONS ALONE DEVELOP INDEPENDENT WORKERS

Southern tobacco growers are the latest to limit output as a means of securing higher prices. The Governor of North Carolina and business men and bankers approve the plan.

Wheat and cotton growers throughout the Nation are taking similar action with the approval of the Federal Farm Board.

Oil producers in the West and Southwest are receiving State aid to limit output. This policy is enforced by State commissions and has been upheld by the Oklahoma State Supreme Court.

Opponents charge that the Oklahoma Corporations Commission ordered railroads and pipe line companies to refuse to transport oil of any operator who ignores the "slow down" order.

Business men everywhere endeavor to "stabilize" output and the old system of "running my own business" is replaced by new economic drifts.

Surface thinkers do not understand how these business men can ask the government to aid them while calling on the government, through its judicial machinery, to check workers from aiding themselves.

The answer to this contradiction is that workers are supposed to be inferiors. When unorganized, workers are voiceless, both from an industrial as well as civic and social standpoints.

When organized they function as citizens. They challenge wrong in every form. Their collective existence is a menace to privilege, for their power expands with intelligence and numbers.

This is what anti-unionists fear. They can keep unorganized workers "in their place." They can compel them to be satisfied.

Wage workers, when united, are beyond the control of industrial autocrats who well know there is no limit to trade union activity that concerns itself with every injustice.

The potential power of organized labor is feared by employers and financial interests who shape the policy of anti-union movements and who understand trade union philosophy.

They know, far better than many workers, the possibilities of united labor to check encroachment on human rights and to eventually secure social justice.

They also know that the time to resist this menace to established privilege is when wage workers talk organization, not when they are entrenched.

As proof that this summary is correct, let an organized worker point to one trade union that has become an industrial and social factor without overcoming hostile opposition.

INJUNCTION ISSUE FORCED BY WORKERS

Atlantic City, Sept. 20.—Organized labor will force the labor injunction into the fall campaign as a leading issue.

This policy was agreed to by the A. F. of L. Executive Council and the A. F. of L. Non-partisan Political Campaign Committee. The executive committee of the latter group are President Green, Secretary Frank Morrison, Treasurer Martin F. Ryan, Vice Presidents Matthew Woll and Thos. A. Rickert of the A. F. of L., and James O'Connell, president Metal Trades Department, A. F. of L.

Trade unionists will ask candidates for Congress to state their position on the bill prepared by Senators Norris, Blaine and Walsh (Mont.), which was rejected by the Senate judiciary committee by a vote of 10 to 7. The minority, who presented strong arguments for injunction relief, are: Senators Norris, Blaine, Walsh (Mont.), Borah, Ashurst and Couzens.

The bill outlaws the "yellow dog" and would prohibit federal judges from issuing injunctions except in certain emergencies.

"Relief from equity courts is a legislative matter of major importance," said President Green. "To secure relief we will apply the full force and power of organized labor as has never been done before."

HUNGRY GERMAN WORKERS VOTE FOR RED REVOLUTION

New York, Sept. 20.—Cables from Germany indicate sweeping gains by the "right" and "left" wings of autocracy in recent elections in that country.

The combined vote of Fascists and Communists was 20,000,000 of the total of 35,500,000 votes cast for 11 parties.

The background for the Communist gain is the unemployment and general distress in Germany. The Fascists capitalized a national spirit and opposition to the treaty settlement of the World War.

The Fascists won 107 seats in the Reichstag (German parliament). This is a gain of 92. The Communists increased their representation from 54 to 76 seats. Both groups, backed by the 41 representatives of the National party, which stands for a return to German monarchy, will be a menace to the parliamentary system of government now in vogue in the German republic.

The Fascists want a dictator like Mussolini. The Communists' program provides that all land shall be seized without compensation and that department stores shall be confiscated and divided into small shops that will be rented by the State.

The Social Democrat is the leading party, receiving 9,000,000 votes and winning 137 seats. This group are moderates and would be classed as advanced progressives in the United States, although they talk Marxian Socialism during campaigns.

The election will probably result in a coalition between the Social Democrats and other groups to resist the three-cornered assault on the parliamentary form of government by the Fascists, Communists and National party, who will control 221 of a total of about 575 Reichstag seats.

Several European countries besides Italy have dictators and the general unemployment problem is being capitalized by revolutionists of all degree.

"SOCIALISM IN OUR TIME" LOSES CHARM IN BRITAIN

Washington, Sept. 20.—British workers, in control of that government, do not accept predictions of enthusiastic pre-election campaigners that "we will have socialism in our time" if Labor is placed in power.

According to British labor papers, received at A. F. of L. headquarters, the men who are directing the British government are facing realities.

Every effort is made to raise wages, shorten hours, place children in school, relieve unemployment and improve housing and work conditions, just as American trade unionists are doing, but British officials are not discussing abstractions that were so common during the campaign.

The workers' realism was indicated at the recent Nottingham convention of the British Trades Union Congress when President John Beard declared that "glib talk will not end capitalism."

The trade unionist indicated the monumental task before labor when he said "there is no organization at present capable of working the change without tremendous dislocation of the social and economic life of the nation."

The task of the labor movement, he said, is to build a new road for progress without obstructing traffic on the old road.

Workers who hold this evolutionary view are attacking James Maxton, member of parliament and leader of the Independent Labor Party, the "left" wing unit of the British Labor Party. Maxton believes in "socialism in our time" and is opposing Premier MacDonald because he does not instantly make the change.

Maxton has been cornered, and now acknowledges that "socialism in our time" will come within 25 years.

One trade unionist, writing in the Manchester Town Crier (Labor) refuses to treat seriously Maxton's glowing picture, and says the "left" leader is "more of a gentle shepherd than a pirate king."

HOW NOW, MR. LIBERAL?

The success of German Fascists and Communists should interest sentimental liberals who ignore principle and who are swayed by emotional appeals.

The immediate objective of these German groups—overthrow of the parliamentary system of government—is identical.

Liberals who aid the Communists do not understand the "red" philosophy that would sweep aside every phase of present-day civilization.

The ultimate "red" objective is concealed by these past masters of propaganda.

If Fascists and Communists win their first objective in Germany, France will be the only important country in continental Europe that stands for the parliamentary system of government.

The situation calls for a revision by American liberals of their present policy—or, rather, of a lack of policy.

These liberals will eventually be shocked to know that Communism is not an advanced reform movement. They will also be shocked to discover how easily they have been "worked."

WHY NOT APPLY LAW?

A Dayton (Ohio) judge refused to enjoin picketing by striking picture operators "as long as the picketing is conducted in a peaceful manner."

Some one might suggest to this judge that if strikers do not use peaceful methods they violate statutory law, for which the State provides trial and punishment.

An equity judge has no jurisdiction where criminal law is broken. He has no right to be a combined law-maker, judge, jury and executioner from which there is no appeal.

Injunction judges assume this position by the claim that they do not enforce law, but protect "property." This so-called "property" is patronage—an intangible thing formerly considered a personal right inherent in each individual.

By classifying this personal right as "property" workers are thrown into equity courts where free speech and free press, guaranteed every other class of citizens, are denied.

That Dayton court should rule that picketing is legal and if unlawful methods are used by strikers they violate criminal law and theater managers should call on police authorities and not an equity judge.

This system must prevail if government by law is to continue. The injunction judge is government by conscience, another name for dictatorship that is spreading throughout Europe.

"BUSINESS AS USUAL" FOR LARGE CONCERNS

New York, Sept. 20.—The business depression has not affected large corporations, according to financial authorities.

Many of the companies that have either passed or reduced their dividends are small concerns, the Wall Street Journal assures investors.

"In spite of reduced and passed dividends, October dividends compilations will compare favorably with those of the corresponding month of last year, as many corporations are paying larger dividends than a year ago," says W. S. J.

GREAT BRITAIN'S TRADE IS IN SERIOUS STAGE

Washington, Sept. 20.—A gloomy picture of British economic conditions is painted by the Department of Commerce in its survey of world business.

Trade conditions in Britain have reached "a dangerously critical stage" and the outlook is characterized by a considerable want of confidence, is the department's cautious comment.

It is anticipated that funds provided for insurance against unemployment will be exhausted five or seven months sooner than intended, with the probability of extra burdens on the national treasury. The government has voted large sums to supplement the regular contributions of employers and employes. These funds are being rapidly reduced because of growing unemployment.

The French outlook is also pessimistic and Canada expects little improvement before late fall.

The civil war in India has paralyzed economic activities in that country and many business failures are imminent.

UPHOLSTERERS ACTIVE

New York, Sept. 20.—William Kohn, president Upholsterers' International Union, continues to spur locals to greater activity. The official lists movements throughout the jurisdiction to better conditions and raise wages where possible, and to hold the lines where trade is depressed.

MUSICIANS WALK OUT

Philadelphia, Sept. 20.—Organized musicians in this city suspended work over the "canned" music issue. The theater managers, who are given orders from New York, said they will employ union musicians only on a restricted scale, when such workers "are needed." The musicians know what that means.

TYPOS TO MEET IN BOSTON

Houston, Tex., Sept. 20.—Boston was selected as the next convention city by the annual convention of International Typographical Union. The winning city, with 121 votes, won over Winnipeg with 114 votes and St. Petersburg, two votes.

HIGHER POSTAL RATES REST ON SHAKY GROUND

Baltimore, Sept. 20.—Postmaster General Brown's plea for higher first-class postal rates to defray the cost of this service rests on "shaky ground," says the Baltimore Sun.

Mr. Brown recently stated that "there is no more logic and justification in asking the government to transport your private mail for less than cost than there would be in asking an electric light company to light your house for less than cost."

"In both of these contentions," says the Baltimore Sun, "Mr. Postmaster General Brown is on shaky ground. The analogy between the postal service and a private enterprise is basically faulty, and even if it were conceded that the Postoffice Department should be managed on the principles applicable to private business, it is by no means established that the government is losing money on the first-class postal service.

"By any method of allocating costs of postal service that is feasible from an accounting point of view, and does not involve a wide degree of speculation, the first-class postal service is shown to be operating not at a loss but at a very handsome profit.

"Until Postmaster General Brown demonstrates that the government is actually losing money on the first-class postal service by recourse to something else than a profession of faith in a tenuous economic theory, his recommendation of higher rates for this service hasn't a leg to stand on."

CITIZENS COME FIRST IN EMPLOYING LABOR

Albany, N. Y., Sept. 20.—Contractors on public work must employ citizens of this State as far as practicable, said Governor Roosevelt in a notice to the State Superintendent of Public Works.

TOO MUCH PRODUCTION CAUSES BUSINESS SAG

New York, Sept. 20.—"Overproduction is the basic cause of the present depression," said Richard Whitney, president New York Stock Exchange, in an address to the Merchants' Association in this city.

The speaker ignored such popular excuses as the tariff, want of confidence, the gold reserve and the stock market. The reason, he said, was that output is greater than consumption.

"Theoretical economists," he said, "some times tell us that there is no such thing as a general over-production of goods, since the wants of humanity are infinite. However true this assertion may be as a general proposition and over long periods of time, it is certainly not applicable in specific instances."

The stock exchange official said there is too great a tendency "to think of finance as a thing in itself," rather than consider the nation's financial machinery as a facilitator of production, distribution and consumption of goods.

"It is a fallacy to think that by juggling with finance, the whole course of business can be readily diverted or changed," he said.

Mr. Whitney closed his address by again emphasizing that the stock market slump did not cause the present depression. "On the contrary," he said, "it was the general realization of the downward trend in trade conditions which initiated the decline in security prices."

PORTO RICO'S PLIGHT SHOWN BY GOVERNOR

San Juan, Porto Rico, Sept. 20.—The first annual report of Theodore Roosevelt, Governor of Porto Rico, discloses an appalling condition of public health and makes no effort to conceal serious economic conditions.

"We are struggling with three problems—disease, poverty and insufficient revenue," the Governor said.

"Our tuberculosis death rate is higher than at any other place on the Western Hemisphere and four and one-half times larger than in continental United States. Malaria is differently, 200,000 suffer from tuberculosis, 200,000 from malaria and 600,000 from hookworm. This condition is all the more deplorable because the climate here is exceptionally healthy. We should be entirely free from such plagues as tuberculosis."

The Governor's report sustains the position of trade unionists who point to the island's pauperized wage of 50 and 60 cents a day. Large fruit, banana and sugar corporations seized the land in defiance of the Jones organic act, Porto Rico's constitution, and drove natives into cities and towns where they are compelled to work for starvation wages.

No progress is made in education and sanitation because these corporations refuse to pay taxes and they take wealth out of the island to continental United States and to Europe.

MOONEY AGITATION HARMS CALIFORNIA

San Francisco, Sept. 20.—California boosters are squirming under the publicity given the Mooney case and the extreme conservatives are joining trade unionists and liberals to appeal a pardon for Mooney and Billings.

The State Supreme Court is considering the voluminous testimony the recent rehearing added to the records of these cases. Under the law, this court must pass on applications for pardon where a prisoner had previously been convicted of a felony. This compelled Billings to go to court. His pardon was refused, but the decision aroused nation-wide resentment. The court said, in effect, that if Billings did not throw the Preparedness Day bomb, he knew who did, and that he should stay in the penitentiary because he shows no inclination to aid the police in apprehending the guilty parties. This is a new angle to the case and was not even hinted by the prosecution when Billings was tried.

The attacks on the court, because of this decision, resulted in an "unofficial rehearing," which has just been concluded.

Governor Young has sole jurisdiction in the Mooney-Billings appeal. The court does not have to act in this case, as Mooney has not been convicted on other felony charges. The Governor, however, has stated that he will be guided in the Mooney case by what the court does in the Billings case.

TIGHTEN IMMIGRATION IS OFFICIAL'S ADVICE

Washington, Sept. 20.—A tightening of immigration was urged by Harry E. Hull, Commissioner of Immigration, in a radio address. He said this course was necessary to be ready expressed by President Hoover.

"With unemployment as it is at the present time in this country," he said, "we should refuse admission from any country to those who expect to make their living as miners, musicians, textile workers, bricklayers, carpenters, plumbers, common laborers, tile setters, stone cutters, actors, asbestos workers, bakers, boiler makers, bookbinders, shoe workers, iron workers, cigar makers, hat makers, glass workers, garment workers, tailors, glass workers, section men, waiters, porters, barbers and shoe shiners."

NIGHT WORK BY WOMEN OPPOSED BY EMPLOYERS

New York, Sept. 20.—The Cotton Textile Institute, in session here, called for the abolition of night work for women and minors in the cotton mills of this country, effective not later than March 1, next year.

Sixteen representative mill owners from North and South, who are members of the Institute's board of directors, were present when the resolution was adopted.

At the same time the convention of the United Textile Workers, meeting in another hotel, reaffirmed their long opposition to night work for women and minors.

WORK LEVEL LOW

Washington, Sept. 20.—The unemployment situation throughout the country took little change for the better during the month of August, as compared with July, according to the Employment Service of the Department of Labor.

TEXTILE WORKERS FIGHT 45-YEAR BAN

New York, Sept. 20.—Opposition to insurance companies that favor the 45-year ban on workers was registered by the United Textile Workers' convention. The resolution asked for combined efforts of these concerns to prevent employment of middle-aged workers because of their poor risk in group insurance policies.

The convention instructed officials to start a campaign in Eastern States against the 56-hour week.

Danville, Va., was reported as seething with unrest because of mill management opposition to organization drives. An elaborate company "union" was set up in these mills after the World War, but the scheme failed.

Wages as low as 22 cents an hour in Allentown, Pa., silk mills, it was stated, are a menace to that industry. The convention called for shorter hours to cope with general idleness. Delegates were agreed that automatic machinery is rapidly displacing weavers and other craftsmen and that the remedy for resultant unemployment is shorter hours.

President Thomas F. McMahon, Secretary-Treasurer James Starr and other officials were re-elected without opposition.

GAS STATIONS EXPAND

New York, Sept. 20.—Large oil corporations that are taking over the Nation's filling stations are preparing to install tens of thousands of pumps arranged with telegraph companies to establish sub-stations. The messages will be telephoned to the nearest office.

LAW LIMITING OUTPUT UPHELD BY HIGH COURT

Oklahoma City, Sept. 20.—The State Supreme Court dissolved an injunction against the Oklahoma Corporation Commission from enforcing its limitation of oil output in this State.

The decision will influence litigation in western and southwestern States where public officials are aiding operators to limit production.

The complainant oil company attacked the order as a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment, which protects property from processes that ignore due process of law. The oil company insisted that it should be permitted to operate its property as it sees fit. It was charged that the State commission instructed pipe lines and railroad companies engaged in interstate commerce to refuse to purchase, carry or run through pipe lines oil from operators who did not accept the commission's orders.

Trade unionists are comparing the court's decision with decisions that affect workers when they insist on less work because of overproduction.

Then, trade unionists point out, the courts discuss "the law of supply and demand," "conspiracy in restraint of trade," "interference with interstate commerce," and "interference with property rights."

MUST CONTROL MACHINE

Atlantic City, Sept. 20.—Labor must control the machine, said Arthur A. Quinn, president New Jersey Federation of Labor, at the annual convention here.

Unemployment is a vicious circle which labor can escape through organization, he said.

RAILROADS CONTEST "PREVAILING WAGE"

Albany, N. Y., Sept. 20.—Railroad managers in this State talk of the value of a high purchasing power, but this does not deter them from resisting a living-wage law.

Six rail managements combined to attack the law which provides for the eight-hour day and the "prevailing wage" in four grade crossing elimination work throughout the State. Millions of dollars will be expended and if the law is upset the railroads will have a free hand to set rates for unorganized workers.

The railroads are the New York Central, Pennsylvania, Long Island, Lackawanna, Erie and New Haven.

PAY CUT HARMFUL

Pittsburgh, Pa., Sept. 20.—"The purchasing power of the nation is wrapped up in the pay envelope and wage reductions delay business recovery," said Secretary of Labor Davis in an address to mining engineers.

The cabinet member said he appreciated losses and discouragements the past year, but "we have hit bottom and are on the upswing."

BUSINESS "WIZARDS" SCORED; BREAK CONTRACTS; CUT WAGES

New York, Sept. 20.—The genius that space writers associate with managers of large corporations is rejected by Forbes' Financial Magazine.

Forbes claim that bigness and business statesmanship go together and that billion-dollar mergers can secure better executives is denied. These supposed industrial wizards, the editor declares, include men who are crooks and have no morality in their contract breaking, while "publicly prating about patriotism."

The editorial should be of interest to those workers who are prone to be awed by newspaper-made "great" men.

"Events since the stock market panic have proved that business statesmanship has not characterized the actions of certain of our colossal corporations," says Forbes. "Some of them have exhibited extreme cowardice. Instead of shouldering a maximum of responsibility for striving to preserve prosperity, they have done their worst to spread panic and intensify depression.

"They have ruthlessly dismissed workers, cutting down production to the bone, instead of investing to a reasonable extent in building up adequate reserve stocks.

"They have fostered price-cutting by those supplying them with materials. They have cancelled contracts right and left. Instead of pushing sales with redoubled vigor, they have broken advertising contracts and reduced sales forces. While publicly prating about patriotism and consideration for the working classes, their actions have proclaimed their actual motto to have been: 'We care only for Number One. Devil take the hindmost and the country.'

"Happily, there have been exceptions, among both big and little employers."

LABOR'S VOTING PLAN URGED IN NORTHWEST

Birmingham, Ala., Sept. 20.—President Green instructed Paul J. Smith, chairman A. F. of L. Southern organizing committee, to tour the northwest in the interest of labor's non-partisan political policy. Mr. Smith started in Wisconsin and will visit Minnesota, Nebraska, Montana, South Dakota and Oklahoma.

Edward F. McGrady, legislative representative A. F. of L., will substitute for Mr. Smith during his absence.

AUTO OUTPUT DROPS

New York, Sept. 20.—The total output of motor vehicles in the United States and Canada for the first eight months of this year was 2,842,906 units, as compared with 4,444,947 for the same period in 1929. More than 95 per cent came from the United States.

REJECT WAGE CUT

Detroit, Mich., Sept. 20.—Bricklayers defeated the effort of organized employers to cut wages 32 per cent.

UNION WORKERS SCORE HEAVILY IN RECENT SOUTHERN PRIMARIES

Washington, Sept. 20.—Organized labor scored heavily in the recent Southern primaries that retired Senator Bruce of South Carolina and Senator Ransdell of Louisiana to private life.

Both senators voted for Judge Parker and ignored labor's pleas for social legislation.

Blease not only supported Judge Parker but blocked Senator Wheeler's resolution for an investigation of the textile industry. Blease favors "unionism" of the type satisfactory to low-wage employers and urged South Carolina mill workers to shun the United Textile Workers, an A. F. of L. affiliate, and form local organizations chartered by the State.

The Columbia Herald, published in Blease's home town, editorially said: "It is believed that the defeat of Senator Blease is due to organized labor."

Organized labor does not forget, and it does not forgive readily. Those who have been opposing organized labor will do well to take notice."

Southern correspondents of Eastern metropolitan newspapers agree that organized labor defeated the two senators. A special dispatch to the New York Herald Tribune, Columbia, S. C., says: "Organized labor defeated Cole L. Blease for the United States Senate. They conducted a well organized campaign, virtually every branch turning its biggest guns on Blease and to the best effort for Byrnes (former congressman), whose record in Congress met with their favor."

The New York Republican Herald, of the Baltimore Sun wires that paper: "For the first time in Louisiana's history labor defeated one man, and the man was Long (governor). He had the indorsement of Wm. Green, president A. F. of L."

"NO CHRISTMAS HAM IF YOU JOIN UNION"

Greensboro, N. C., Sept. 20.—The Cone mills management warns workers that they will receive no Christmas ham if they are not on the pay roll at that time.

The workers reply: "Give us a living wage and we will buy our own hams."

"It is not the 'ham what am' at Christmas that is interesting Greensboro workers, but the 'what ain't' 364 other days of the year," said A. F. of L. Organizer Gaskill.

CHAIN FARMS ASSAILED; FEUDALIZES PEOPLE

Topeka, Kan., Sept. 20.—To offset the Democrats' reference to the nation's business depression, Republicans of Kansas are emphasizing farming and the need for legislation that will permit agriculturists to rear families rather than be "floating farm hands."

The chain opponents picture a possible condition that now exists among hundreds of thousands of industrial workers.

To replace individual farmers," the Republicans say, "with floating farm hands employed for a few months in the year and poorly paid as well nail shut the doors of the churches and the institutions of learning. Individual farmers, not floating farm hands, rear children and give them opportunities for scholastic education." Farmers in chain farming will go to the East, rather than to Kansas towns, it is stated.

Fred Nevenschwander, City Commissioner of Kansas, says "he has reason to believe" these chain farm corporations have designs to increase their lands in fixing their capitalization.

DUAL MINERS ARE ENJOINED; ILLEGAL PLAN, SAYS COURT

Joliet, Ill., Sept. 20.—County Judge Frederick A. Hill upheld an injunction by Judge Julius C. Kern of the Franklin county circuit court which restrains members of the dual miners' union in this State from interfering with President John L. Lewis and associate officers of the regular United Mine Workers of America.

The dualists set up an organization in Springfield, this State, last March, and claim to be the regular union. They were enjoined by Judge Kern from making this statement to prospective members. In upholding this order, Judge Hill said the dualists acted without authority and that the international union had its regularly elected officers when the Springfield meeting was held.

"The holding of the Springfield convention," continued Judge Hill, "did not operate as a reorganization of the United Mine Workers of America, did not create a new constitution for that body and did not invest the members there elected as its officers with any power and duties."

Charges by the dualists that President Lewis of the United Mine Workers revoked the charter of the Illinois Mine Workers of America, and by their conduct are usurping powers which they do not possess, and are interfering with the rights of complainants and others who still desire to adhere to and recognize the lawful officers of that association, and enjoy the benefits to which they are entitled as members of that organization."

RURAL POPULATION URGED TO SHUN CITY

Little Rock, Ark., Sept. 20.—Farmers are urged to shun city life by Earl Vanderpool, Commissioner of Agriculture.

Such a change would be "from the frying pan into the fire," said Mr. Page, who warns farmers of the higher cost of living and the difficulty of finding work.

"Good wages and steady employment are required to meet the necessary expenses of a comfortable living with few luxuries in cities and towns," said the commissioner.